

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1015

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Richard D. Pickell upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Richard D. Pickell, who has devoted more than thirty years to the education and instruction of young students and athletes; on March 15, 2008, Mr. Pickell will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools and athletics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pickell served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher and boys basketball coach at Oliver Springs High School from 1964 until 1971 and at Harriman High School from 1971 until 1995; he also rendered sterling service as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Harriman for four years until his much deserved retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious thirty-one-year tenure as a coach, Richard Pickell posted an overall record of 561 wins to thirty losses, leading his teams to five district championships, five region championships, three TSSAA State tournament appearances, and a TSSAA State championship in 1995; and

WHEREAS, a devoted sportsman, Coach Pickell will have attended his fortieth straight Boys State Basketball tournament in 2008; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Lenoir City High School, Richard Pickell was the starting guard on the school's 1958 State Championship basketball team, which was coached by fellow TSSAA Hall of Famer Elvin Little; and

WHEREAS, he attended Tennessee Wesleyan College, where he excelled in both basketball and baseball; and

WHEREAS, with a reputation for unwavering commitment to the principles he holds dear, Coach Pickell has received numerous coaching honors, including the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association Class AA Boys Basketball District Coach of the Year, which he won for three consecutive years starting in 1993; in addition, he was inducted into the Lenoir City High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, received the East Tennessee Coach of the Year Award in 1995 by the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, and was named Tennessee Coach of the Year in 1995 by the Tennessee Sportswriters Association; and

WHEREAS, due to Mr. Pickell's vast coaching achievements, the Harriman High School Gymnasium was dedicated as the "Richard D. Pickell Gymnasium" on January 29, 1988; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the Harriman community, Mr. Pickell is supported by his loving wife, Jean Pickell, and his two children, Travis and Wesley; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and his impressive work ethic, Mr. Richard Pickell has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in mentoring the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Richard D. Pickell in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic

Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. Pickell for his substantial legacy as a teacher, coach, and administrator in the education community of Tennessee, and offer our thanks for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.